

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT TRANSFERS

Purpose

This document outlines the policy and procedure for International or overseas students transferring to and from Firbank Grammar School.

The policy aims to ensure that students can continue their education without unnecessary disruptions, while maintaining compliance with immigration regulations and academic standards. By outlining the necessary procedures and requirements of the transfer process.

Scope

This policy is applicable for all international/overseas students and Firbank Grammar School Staff

Firbank Grammar School t/a Firbank Grammar **distinguishes student transfers into two categories incoming and outgoing students.**

Firbank Grammar will ensure all students, staff and agents have access to our Overseas Student Transfer Policy and Procedure. Firbank Grammar acknowledges students can transfer with no restrictions once they have completed 6 months of their *first course*.

Firbank Grammar may request permission from overseas students to contact their previous school to gain further information on their previous enrolment, as agreed upon by the student in the written contract.

Incoming Students

Firbank Grammar will not enroll a student wishing to transfer from another institution unless the student can provide evidence they have completed 6 months of their first course unless:

- the original CRICOS provider of the course in which the student is enrolled has ceased to be registered;
- the original provider has released the student and recorded the release in PRISMS;
- the original provider has a sanction imposed on its registration by the Australian Government or State or Territory Government that prevents



- the student from continuing his or her first course;
- A Government sponsor of the student considers the change to be in the student's best interest and has provided written support for that change.

Other checks may include evidence of;

- the completed qualification/Statements of Attainment from the student and/or evidence of the last date they attended a class, to try to ascertain whether the student is not enrolled elsewhere or still within 6 months of their first course.
- Firbank Grammar will check the Provider Registration and International Student Management System (PRISMS) to see if the student is enrolled elsewhere but will not solely rely on the PRISMS data.

Firbank Grammar is aware that if a student transfers to another provider, any refunds of tuition or other fees paid to the original provider will be in accordance with the original provider's refund policy.

International Students under the age of 18 years

Firbank Grammar is aware that it must have written confirmation from the overseas students parents or guardians as requested in the transfer application form.

Firbank Grammar is aware that it accepts responsibility for approving the overseas student accommodation, support and general welfare arrangements in accordance with Standard 5, where the overseas student is not being cared for in Australia by a parent or nominated relative.

Outgoing Students

Firbank Grammar will not grant a release to any student who does not have a valid Letter of Offer within the first 6 calendar months from the date of the commencement of their first course. If the student has had a break in their enrolment due to a deferment or suspension, the break period will not be counted as part of their 6 months of completed study.

Firbank Grammar will only grant a Letter of Release/Release a student where the transfer will not be to the detriment of the student. This process will also require the school to release the student in PRISMS.

Some examples of what may be considered to the student's detriment are:

- The overseas student will be reported because they are unable to achieve satisfactory course progress at the level they are studying even



- after engaging in the intervention strategy to assist the student.
- There is evidence of compassionate or compelling circumstances.
 - Firbank Grammar fails to deliver the course as outlined in the written agreement.
 - There is evidence that the overseas student's reasonable expectations about their current course are not being met.
 - There is evidence that the overseas student was misled by the provider, education agent or migration agent regarding the registered providers or its course and the course is therefore unsuitable to their needs and or study objectives.
 - An appeal (Internal or external) on another matter results in a decision or recommendation to release the overseas student.
 - if the transfer may jeopardize the student's progression through a package of courses
 - If the student has recently started studying the course and the full range of support services are yet to be provided or offered to the student (it is good practice to revisit the issue within a timeframe negotiated with the student); and
 - if the student is trying to avoid being reported to DHA for failure to meet the provider's attendance or academic progress requirement.

Students wanting to be released from the School will be required to firstly request an appointment with the Deputy Principal or Head of Campus. The School will ensure a meeting is offered within 48 hours of the request. After the meeting, the student will be required to complete an application form with reasons of why they want to leave, and then sign and lodge the form with the administration desk. All documentary evidence supporting the request must be submitted with the form.

No request will be considered until the student produces a signed Letter Offer from another registered CRICOS provider. The School will not charge for a Letter of Release.

Firbank Grammar Letter of Release will state: whether or not the student demonstrated a commitment to studies during the course, whether or not they had a good attendance record, and whether or not they paid all course fees owing.

The Letter of Release will also advise the student to contact the DHA urgently to seek advice on whether or not a new student visa is required.

No restrictions apply to students who have completed the first 6 months of their first course.

Firbank Grammar will not issue a Letter of Release if a student has unpaid course fees for the current study period. The current study period is determined as the



study period in which the student applies for a Letter of Release. If this falls during holiday break the release will be determined as being the previous study period.

Firbank Grammar's students will be provided with written notice of a transfer / Release refusal. All records and processes which form part of the decision will be kept on the student's file.

International Students can only study with a CRICOS registered provider whilst on an international student visa for any course or part of a course (e.g. a licensing outcome course) they enroll into in Australia.

Transfer Procedure

Incoming Students

Incoming students may provide a Letter of Release from their previous provider and must be released in PRISMS by their previous provider unless they are undertaking a secondary course, or circumstances outlined in this policy are proven (see above). In this instance DHA should be contacted to confirm the correct procedure.

- Copies of documents used in the process must be kept on student files of all evidence.
- If the transfer will affect the start dates of any subsequent courses covered by the visa, the student needs to obtain release (in PRISMS) for those courses or gain the providers' written agreement to delay the start of those subsequent courses.
- Where applicable, Firbank staff will advise students that changes to their preliminary courses may have ramifications for their admission to their subsequent course/s (e.g. if a preliminary course is a prerequisite).
- All documentation will be kept on the student's file.

Outgoing Procedure

- Student to complete an '*Application for Transfer*'. This application will include the student's rights to appeal a refusal decision as per Firbank's *International Students Complaints and Appeals Policy*.
- Staff are to check if any outstanding fees are owed.
- Firbank is to provide written acknowledgement of the completed application.
- The school will assess the application, make a decision and inform student within 9 working days of receipt of the signed application. This document will again advise students of their right to appeal the decision.
- The school will include advice if there are any outstanding fees for the current study period, that a release will not be granted until they are paid,



- as per the *Transfer Policy*.
- The School will provide the student with written notice of the decision being either a Letter of Release or a Letter of Refusal with reasons for refusal in detail and attach to the original application. The refusal letter will also inform the student of their rights to appeal the decision under Firbank's *International Students Complaints and Appeals Policy*.
 - All documentation (including any appeal) will be kept on the student's file for audit.
 - All Letters of Release are provided at no extra cost (if issued).
 - The Letter (if issued) will advise students to contact DHA to seek advice on whether a new student visa is required.

The Transfer request outcome must be recorded in PRISMS. If Firbank intends to refuse a release, the refusal status in PRISMS will not be finalised until:

- any appeal against the refusal is lodged by the international student is finalised and upholds the School's decision not to release the student; or
- the international student did not access Firbank's complaints and appeals processes within 20 working days of being notified of the refusal; or
- the international student withdraws their appeal against the refusal.

Firbank Grammar will maintain records of all requests from students for a Letter of Release or Refusal, the assessment process, and decision regarding the request, and keep evidence on the student's file for two years after the student ceases to be an accepted student.

Transfer to Receiving School

When a student is transferring to a new school or provider Firbank Grammar will endeavor to ensure that the receiving school will negotiate a transfer date for welfare arrangements to ensure there is no gap.

Firbank Grammar will inform students of their visa obligations through the transfer process included in the letter of release.

Refunds

If a student has been issued with a release, he / she is subject to the conditions of Firbank Grammar's Refund Policy.



Related Policies and Documents

- Application for Transfer, Suspension,
- Cancellation form Letter of Release
- Approval and Refusal Templates
- International Students Complaints and Appeals Policy
- Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
- Child Safety and Wellbeing Code of Conduct
- Child Safety and Wellbeing Reporting Obligations Policy
- Child Safety and Wellbeing Complaints and Concerns Policy

Approval

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